

HOUSE No. 2813

By Mrs. Parente of Milford, petition of Marie J. Parente and others relative to the protection of children in cases of domestic violence. Children and Families.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Marie J. Parente	Christine E. Canavan
Carol A. Donovan	Stanley C. Rosenberg
Paul J. Donato	Elizabeth A. Poirier

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 51A of chapter 119 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting, after the word “communication”, in line 32, the
4 following:— provided, however, that the knowledge that a parent
5 is seeking or has sought services related to domestic violence,
6 including but not limited to a restraining order or other protective
7 order shall not, in and of itself, constitute reasonable cause.

1 SECTION 2. Section 51A of chapter 119 is hereby further
2 amended by deleting, in line 33, the word “however” and inserting
3 in place thereof the word, “further”.

1 SECTION 3. Section 51B of chapter 119 is hereby amended by
2 adding, at the end of subsection (1), the following sentence:— In
3 evaluating the information reported under section 51A, the depart-
4 ment shall screen out any such reports which are based solely on
5 the knowledge that a parent is seeking or has sought services

6 related to domestic violence, including but not limited to a
7 restraining order; however, the department may provide services
8 to the family if needed.